

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 9-22 have been withdrawn. Of the remaining claims, claims 1 and 23 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

The present invention can appropriately specify the administrative standard corresponding to the expense item based on the expense item code showing the expense item set by reflecting the aim of the purchase, even if it is necessary to set different expense items corresponding to the purchase aims of the items when there are same items, and the administrative standard (approval path) of each expense item are different, as show in Figure 4 of the original drawings, because the administrative standard is specified based on the expense item code and the budget control unit ID. Namely, the present invention can deal with the specifying of the administrative standard flexibly even if the expense item cannot be set to the item by only one meaning.

Furthermore, in the present invention, it is possible to realize an aspect wherein the expense item code specifying the administrative standard is selected from the expense item code corresponding to the item number and the expense item code corresponding to the budget control ID, because the expense item code is corresponded to the item number in the merchandise assortment master and the budget control ID in the budget control unit master. By the aspect, not only the expense item made a connection with the merchandise assortment master in advance but also the expense item codes set by considering features of the budget control unit in a department or the like, that is, the expense item code made a connection with the budget control ID in the budget control master may be set as the expense item code of the item showing the item number, and the expense item can be set flexibly corresponding to a feature of the expense when the item is purchased. Namely, the expense of each item with considering the use every budget control unit can be determined at every order, and the aspect set the administrative standard can be dealt depending upon the need of every expense item.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits

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that claims 1-23, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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